

TUBULAR BODY STRUCTURE MARKING METHODS AND APPARATUS

Patent Number: WO9819618
Publication date: 1998-05-14
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Requested Patent: ☐ WO9819618
Application Number: WO1997US19948 19971105
Priority Number(s): US19960745618 19961107; US19970958461 19971028
IPC Classification: A61B19/00
EC Classification: A61B17/32B, A61F2/06C, A61F2/06P, A61F2/06S2, A61B19/00R
Equivalents: ☐ EP0996386

Abstract

To facilitate subsequent location of a point along a patient's tubular body structure (e.g., a circulatory system vessel), a marker structure is inserted into and along the lumen of that tubular body structure. At the desired point along the lumen, a distal portion of the marker structure is made to pass out through a side wall of the tubular body structure so that it projects from that side wall and visibly and/or radiologically marks the desired point along the tubular body structure. The marker structure may also be used as an anchor for other instrumentation brought up to the outside of the tubular body structure (e.g., for use in further treatment of the tubular body structure).

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